

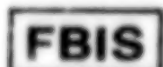
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20 May 1981

Worldwide Report

LAW OF THE SEA

No. 156



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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INDIAN SCIENTISTS OPPOSE FRG AID IN NODULES SEARCH

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Apr 81 p 8

[Text]

NEW DELHI April 10

Oceanographic scientists have expressed concern over the Government's move to get from West Germany a research vessel for dredging mineral nodules from the ocean floor.

Under a recent agreement, Bonn will provide sophisticated equipment and build a research vessel for India for collecting data on location of exploitable deposits like hydro-carbons and for marine biology exploration.

On the Lok Sabha, on Wednesday, the Minister of State for Science and Technology Mr C. P. N. Singh, said that a soft loan had been arranged from West Germany for acquiring a research ship and sophisticated equipment for dredging the mineral nodules.

He told Mr Jagdish Tytler that since the Planning Commission is unable to provide funds for the purpose, the Government had to seek a loan from West Germany.

There was no confirmation yet about attempts by certain multinational organisations to block India's efforts at sea mining, Mr Singh said.

His local talents: Scientists fear that the decision to go in for West German technical assistance might hamper the development of Indian talents in the high technology area. Besides, the research vessel could well be manufactured in India, they feel.

Sources in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) say the research vessel 'Geshen' which scooped up mineral-packed nodules from the Indian Ocean in January was manufactured at the Garden Reach workshop in Calcutta. Only a few items of sophisticated equipment were imported for the vessel.

India's ocean floor has already drawn considerable attention from developed nations, notably the United States which is interested in the poly-

metallic manganese nodules.

U.S. interest: The US has always depended on mineral imports from the developing world for its domestic use, leaving most of its own vast reserves untouched, the sources say.

According to the Director of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Goa, Dr S. Z. Qasim, the Indian Ocean bed could provide at least three to four kg of mineral-packed nodules a square metre of seabed — "much more than originally envisaged."

Dr Qasim said while preliminary estimates had placed the concentration of the deposits at only 2.5 kg a square metre — the minimum needed for commercial exploitation — it was now certain that they were far richer.

Even in the Pacific area where the developed nation had begun commercial mining, this concentration had not been found, he said.

Commercial exploitation would be feasible even if the yield was less than 2.5 kg a square metre provided the concentration of cobalt, nickel and copper was high. It would, however, take at least five years before India could begin any such operation.

Exploration in Bay: The NIO would start exploration off the Andaman islands at the end of the year, Dr Qasim said. Exploration in the Bay of Bengal — as yet an unexplored area — was also being planned. The "Ganges cone" in the Bay could potentially be as rich as the "Indus cone" in the Arabian Sea.

CSIR sources said several private mining corporations within the country had shown interest in commercial exploitation and had expressed willingness to invest heavily.

The Government is considering the matter, keeping in view the acutely sensitive nature of the operation and the strategic interests involved — UPI.

TUNA INDUSTRY IN TROUBLE; TALKS ON LIMITS HELD

Inter-State Issues

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 31 Mar 81 p 23

[Text] Top-level talks were held in Perth yesterday on possible restraints on WA's southern tuna fishing industry.

The Federal Ministry for Primary Industry, Mr Nixon, and the national president of the Australian Fishing Industry Council, Mr F. A. Connell, discussed the matter in Perth and later by telephone hook-up after Mr Nixon returned to Canberra.

The talks revolved around the fact that the tuna fisheries in NSW, Victoria and South Australia are all restricted.

The freeze on the number of boats in the tuna fleets of the three States is due for re-examination by the Federal Government today.

Fishermen in some States have complained that the southern WA tuna fishery is not restricted. Some want the WA fishery to come under a federal management programme which includes a limit on the size of tuna that can be taken.

The WA Tuna Boat Owners' Association has strongly resisted any suggestions that the southern fishery be regulated.

The executive officer for the WA branch of the AFIC, Mr G. Stewart, said that no decision had come from yesterday's talks.

Mr Nixon and Mr Connell were expected to make an announcement on the matter today.

Supply Glut

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 3 Apr 81 p 24

[Article by Carl Kitchen: "It's Tough Period at Albany"]

[Text] Albany: WA's tuna-fishing industry is facing one of its toughest periods since being established.

WA's two main tuna canneries, West Ocean Canning Pty Ltd and Hunts Foods Pty Ltd, have stopped taking tuna or have placed a quota on how much they will accept from fishermen.

West Ocean has placed a limit of 10 tonnes per boat until June 30.

Hunts Foods has closed its Esperance tuna depot and earlier this week stopped taking tuna at Albany.

The companies have been forced to stop taking tuna because of a number of factors.

One is that the WA, Australian and world tuna markets are faced with a glut of fish.

Record catches have been taken in Australia and overseas.

Local canneries had to import tuna in the past because they were not getting enough from local fishermen, but now they have too much fish and this has caused them to cut intake.

One Esperance fisherman said that the situation was the worst he had known for five years.

'Last Trip'

A member of the Albany Tuna Boat Owners' Association said: "Things are grim here. Men are coming into Emu Point harbour and saying it is their last trip."

Hunts' Albany manager, Mr Ross Welshman, said that the company had imported fish when it needed extra cash.

There was now a glut affecting all markets in which Hunts traded and this had to affect Albany and Esperance.

The company had stopped taking tuna for two weeks to prepare for exports.

Officers from the Department of Primary Industry had inspected Hunts this week to allow it to get registration for export.

This could take between two and 2-1/2 weeks.

Hunts would then start receiving 500 tonnes for export.

In nine months, hopefully, the industry would be back to normal.

'A Freak'

The executive director of West Ocean Canning, Mr Victor Kailis, described the situation as a freak of nature with most ports taking record catches.

His company had imposed a limit on boats so that the fishermen would at least be getting something.

The secretary of the WA branch of the Australian Fishing Industry Council, Mr Graeme Stewart, said that to one way of easing the situation could be to encourage people to eat fish through promotion. [as published]

The AFIC was looking at doing this later this year.

CSO: 5200

DRILLERS SET TO EXPLORE FOR OIL IN ARAFURA SEA

Melbourne THE AGE in English 31 Mar 81 p 5

[Article by Michael Gill: "Groups Allow \$74M for Arafura Sea Oil Search"]

[Text] Six groups of exploration companies will spend more than \$75 million in the next six years searching for oil in the Arafura Sea, north of Australia.

The Federal and Northern Territory Governments announced yesterday that six consortiums would spend that much to drill 18 wells in the continental shelf off the Territory's coast.

The move into the Territory's offshore areas follows the failure of an expensive exploration effort in the deeper water north of Western Australia.

The companies have six years to complete their obligations in six exploration areas granted jointly by the Federal and Territory Governments. They will first test the poorly explored geology with 16,500 kilometres of seismic survey. (Seismic tests are run over straight lines and aim to show up possible "traps" which might contain oil.)

The new areas, which run side by side north from the coast, come after the opening last year of similar shallow-water areas in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Other new permits were granted last year in deep water in Bass Strait.

The Arafura Sea and Gulf of Carpentaria attracted interest because little was known about the geology. Cheaper drilling costs in shallow water has meant that smaller Australian companies could join the big international groups.

Only recently Esso, BHP, MIM and Phillips Oil indicated that they had temporarily abandoned deep water drilling in the Exmouth Plateau off Western Australia. About \$200 million was sunk into that area without result, although the geologists remained hopeful. Failure of that work and the prospect of dwindling Bass Strait supplies have encouraged a wider campaign by a mixture of Australian companies and foreign newcomers.

PIPE DELIVERED FOR NORTH RANKIN OFFSHORE WELL HOOKUP

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 7 Apr 81 p 1

[Text] The North-West Shelf project came a step closer yesterday with the arrival of a shipment of pipes at Port Hedland and the testing of a new plough at Woodman Point.

In Port Hedland, a shipment of 25km of pipe arrived. It will be used to connect production platforms on the North Rankin gasfield with the Burrup Peninsula, 130km away.

Five similar shipments will be delivered in the next four months to complete the delivery of the pipe.

The pipes are being delivered to Port Hedland because no suitable berthing facilities exist on the peninsula.

At Woodman Point, tests were carried out yesterday with a one-third scale model of a pipeline trenching plough.

The full-scale plough will be the biggest of its kind anywhere.

A spokesman for the consultants, Mr Jack Aggar, said that the pipeline--one metre in diameter--would first be laid between Withnell Bay to the North Rankin fields.

The plough would then be used to dig a trench under the pipeline and sink it to the ocean floor, giving the line protection from cyclonic conditions.

CSO: 5200

AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

YACHTS ON JAPANESE FISHING—Adelaide--One of the world's largest and most modern racing yachts, Anaconda II, has been chartered for South Australia fishing inspections' checks on tuna fishing. It is owned by Adelaide businessman Josco Griffiths. The Federal Government will pay for the yacht charter at \$1250 a day, including crew, radar, navigation and radio equipment. Its initial charter is for about 70 days. The South Australian Fisheries Minister, Mr Rodda, said yesterday it would be used for sending two Fisheries Department officers aboard Japanese tuna vessels to inspect their operations. [Text] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 10 Apr 81 p 1]

CSH: A200

COMMUNIST PAPER COMMENTS ON U.S. LAW-OF-THE-SEA STANCE

BK151347 Delhi PATRIOT in English 10 Apr 81 p 2

[Comment Column: "Law of Sea"]

[Text] President Reagan's decision to slow down the process of negotiations to create a code for international behaviour in maritime matters has been dictated by the interests of a handful of Western multinational firms, in keeping with a new long-term strategy framed by the Trilateral Commission consisting of the United States, Western Europe and Japan by which alternative sources of raw materials are to be exploited to free these nations from obligations to producer nations. Sensing the changing pattern of future economic relations and hoping to be able to skim away huge profits because of their technological advantage, the multinational corporations, especially the oil firms, are diversifying in the mineral-mining area. Some of the mineral firms have developed technology for deep-sea mining of nodules rich in a multiplicity of strategic materials ranging from manganese to cobalt. Apart from the United States which has sizable reserves of its own raw materials, Western Europe and Japan depend largely on imports of these materials from the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The Law of the Sea Conference had been holding deliberations these past seven years on the basis of the concept that the resources of the oceans outside the 350-mile continental shelf could be the common heritage of mankind to be utilized for the general benefit of all nations. President Reagan threw a spanner in the works by intimating to the conference that his administration would 'review' the work before it commits itself any further. This new development is linked to the demand by the multinationals that the United States must not become party to any decision that will circumscribe the freedom to exploit the ocean resources for its own benefit. If the United States kills the conference, it will have repercussions the world over. For one, nations in control of strategic straits could assert their sovereignty over them. For another, the present raw material producers will suffer a shattering blow to their raw-material based economies because world market prices of these materials will be adversely affected by a glut in supplies emanating from the ocean bed.

USO: 5200/7048

PARLIAMENT TO CONSIDER LAW AGAINST POACHING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Apr 81 p 5

[1981] Minister of State for Agriculture R. V. Swaminathan said on Thursday that a bill providing for heavy penalty and confiscation of foreign vessels poaching in Indian waters was expected to be introduced in the current session of the Parliament.

Intervening in the debate on the demand for grants of the Ministries of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction, Mr Swaminathan expressed the Government's deep concern over poaching by foreign vessels and added that the draft bill regulating fishing was ready.

Regarding Operation Flood I he said that after its implementation, the availability of milk had increased from 108 gms per day in 1970 to 120 gms in 1980. It was proposed to increase it to 146 gms in 1985, he added.

He expressed happiness that the UN evaluation team had appreciated the performance of the project, which helped setting up over 10,000 producers' cooperative societies with a membership of more than 13 lakh farmers.

Mr Swaminathan said that the Government proposed to accelerate the implementation of Operation Flood II which would have a much larger coverage of 148 cities and 350 milk shed districts.

Mr Swaminathan said compared to India's coast line of 5650 km and exclusive economic zone of 2.2 million hectares, the deepsea fishing trawlers, both in the public and private sectors numbered only about 75 which was 'very inadequate.' This task was being taken advantage of by foreign vessels. It was proposed to increase deep-sea fishing vessels by 1985.

He said, the Minister said, the Government could not be oblivious of the interference of fishermen using non-mechanised boats. A model bill for demarcating fishing zones for mechanised and non-mechanised boats had already been circulated and was being pursued with the State Governments. "The question of having a central legislation for such purpose is also under our active consideration."

The Government was also considering the modalities of giving some relief or incentives to owners of small mechanised fishing boats hit by the recent hike in diesel cost. The Minister said the estimated marine fish production potential was more than four million tonnes a year, while the present production was only 1.2 million tonnes.

MAJOR THRUST IN DEEP-SEA MINING

Bangkok THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 11 Apr 81 p 4

[Text] New Delhi, 9 April--India plans to give a major thrust to deep-sea mining following the recent discovery of a huge carpet of polymetallic nodules in the Indian Ocean, the Government said Wednesday.

Minister of State for Science and Technology CPN Singh told Parliament the nodules were found on a large scale near a crater about 240 kilometres (149 miles) from the southern tip of Indian territory. He did not give the exact location.

Samplons of the nodules were brought up by the country's oceanic research vessel Diveshni (Researcher). Mr Singh said.

Syed Zahoor Qasim, Director of the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) at the former Portuguese enclave of Goa in western India, said this month the samples, turned up last January, contained manganese, nickel, cobalt and copper.

Mr Qasim said a square metre of the seabed contained about 2.5 kilograms of nodules found at depths from 3,600 metres (11,811 feet) to 4,500 metres (14,763 feet).

He said the nodules ranged up to 8.3 centimeters in size and 200 grammes in weight, and added: "Diveshni can bring in shiploads of nodules anytime."

Mr Singh said his Government had decided to treat the survey and explorations of deep-sea nodules as a major project to be coordinated on an all-India basis.

He said West Germany had agreed to give a soft loan and provide equipment and a ship for ocean-floor mining. NAB/REITER

CSO: 1200

DELHI PLANS GROWTH IN DEEP-SEA FISHING

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Apr 81 p 6

(Text)

COCHIN, April 12 (PTI).

INDIA expects to put into operation another 350 modern trawlers or vessels for deep sea fishing in the next four years as part of its efforts to double the seafood exports from the present about Rs 235 crore to Rs 501 crore by the end of the Sixth Plan period. Presently only 70 vessels operate.

The plan is to operate vessels on a charter basis, or to import or build the trawlers within the country.

The Union Government has recently revived the scheme of soft loan facility from the shipping development fund to entrepreneurs coming forward to acquire or build new deep sea-going vessels. Details of the scheme, which has been revived after 22 months,

are under finalisation. The Government also offers a subsidy of 33 per cent on every new fishing trawler indigenously built in view of the high costs involved in construction.

Chairman of the Marine Products Export Development Authority R C Chowdhury told PTI here today that the vessels would be deployed mainly for tuna and other varieties of fish other than shrimp, which were mostly found in shore waters.

India's seafood exports, which had been gradually going up, suffered a set back in 1980-81, with the exports in terms of value coming down to about Rs 233 crore from the set target of Rs 300 crore, due primarily to shortage of fish catches, though depression in some of the importing countries also was a contributory factor.

The export target for 1981-82 had been fixed at Rs 500 crore.

350: 5200

SOIL, SEABED CONTAMINATED BY RADIOACTIVE WASTES

Taipei CHINA POST (in English) 20 Apr 81 p 6

[TEXT]

TOKYO, Apr. 18 (AP) Radioactive waste materials apparently leaking from a nuclear plant in north-central Japan have seriously contaminated soil around the plant and seeped into a nearby bay, the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) said Saturday.

MITI officials said they are launching a full investigation into the cause of the abnormal amounts of radiation detected around the Tsuruga Nuclear Plant of the Japan Atomic Power Co., located 320 kilometers (192 miles) west of Tokyo. They said the problem appears to be in a building adjacent to the nuclear reactor for disposing and storing of radioactive wastes.

Officials said soil samples taken from the vicinity of the building showed 9,941 pico-curies of cobalt 60 and 1,458 pico-curies of manganese 54 in one gram, dangerously higher than normal.

The Kyodo News Service, quoting officials in Fukui Prefecture (state) where the 357,000-kilowatt plant is locat-

ed, said the amount of cobalt 60 detected was 5,000 times as great as the highest previous reading in the vicinity of the plant.

Officials said a crack in the piping or storage tank of the disposal building may have allowed waste water to seep into general drainage pipes leading into the Wakasa Bay along the Japan Sea coast.

Earlier in the day MITI announced radioactivity levels 10 times above normal had been found in seaweed near drainage outlets of the plant. They said the quantities discovered, 0.3 pico-curies of cobalt 60 and 0.1 pico-curies of manganese 54, would not have adverse effects on human health.

However, Kyodo quoted Fukui officials as saying the effects on the human body could be serious if the radioactive waste has spread throughout the bay.

Japan has a total of 22 nuclear plants, and depends on nuclear energy to generate more than 10 percent of its electricity.

200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE HARD TO CONTROL

Manila PHILIPPINES DAILY EXPRESS in English 18 Apr 81 p 7

[Article by Adlai J. Amor: "Taiwanese, Japanese Poach on RP Waters"]

[Text]

THE PHILIPPINES is finding it extremely difficult to police its 200-mile exclusive economic zone, one of the world's richest and most unexploited tuna fishing grounds.

Sources say that as a result, there has been an increase in illegal fishing in Philippine waters, largely by Japanese and Taiwanese fishermen. They add that as more and more countries are declaring their exclusive economic zones, these two countries will be forced to fish in areas closer to home.

But while many are sighted by local fishermen, only a handful have been apprehended. Philippine Coast Guard records show that only six vessels were caught last year. A recent study by Dr. Virginia L. Aprieto of the East West Centre in Hawaii says that from 1972-1977, some 144 Japanese and Taiwanese boats were

apprehended for illegal fishing in the Philippines.

...

A COAST GUARD official, who requested anonymity, said they were already finding it difficult to police the three-mile territorial limits around the country's 7,100 islands. "More so now with the declaration of the 200-mile exclusive economic zone," he said.

When the Philippines declared its 200-mile economic zone in 1978, it added 946,600 square kilometers to the country's existing 1,866,100 sq. km. of marine waters.

Most of the apprehended illegal fishing vessels are from Taiwan. Sources, however, say that most of the poachers are Japanese whose vessels are more modern, faster and well-provisioned. "The Japanese fishing

boats are so modern you'd think that they are espionage ships," a source said.

There has even been unconfirmed reports of Japanese floating canneries, which normally operate in the Pacific, in Philippine waters.

...

PART OF the problem is that "it is difficult to gauge whether one is in international or Philippine waters in the high seas. But since most of the sightings were reported by small fishermen who often fish just a kilometer from the shore, it is clear that these boats are in Philippine waters.

Although no diplomatic protest has been filed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the problem of illegal Japanese fishing ranked high among the issues discussed during the January 1981 visit

of Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki.

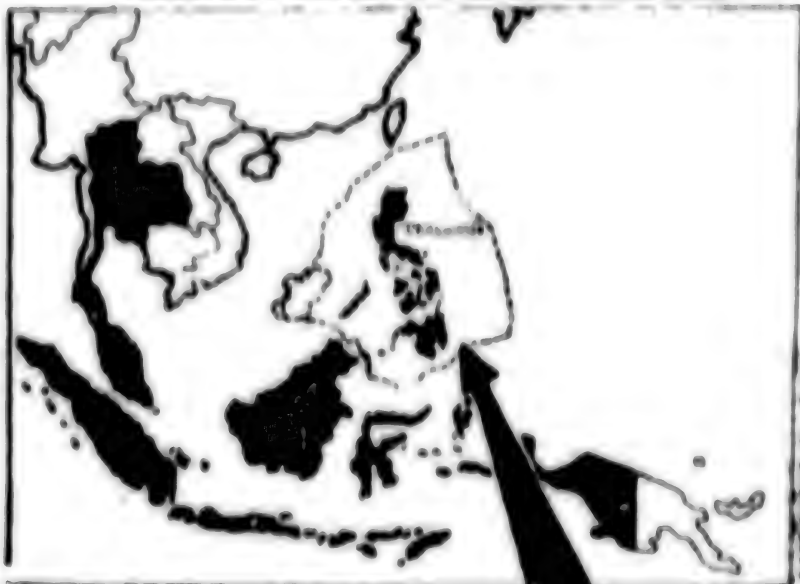
While the existing treaty of amity, commerce and navigation between the two countries clearly prohibits illegal fishing, there are now diplomatic moves to negotiate a separate fishing agreement between the Philippines and Japan.

...

A JAPANESE embassy official in Manila, Jiro Nakajima, said that his government has already warned all Japanese fishermen not to fish in Philippine waters. He said that before the order was issued, as many as 340 Japanese boats were fishing for tuna and skipjack in the Philippines. Their production, however, declined from a 11,073 metric tons in 1974 to only 4,859 mt in 1978.

"We have been informed of some Japanese fishing vessels poaching in Philippine

PHILIPPINES' 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE



Sources: Bu. Coast and Geodetic Survey

200 - MILE ECONOMIC ZONE (MEASURED FROM BASELINE)1/

waters but we just cannot prevent all of them from violating our order," Nakajima said.

While there has been some talk of licensing foreign fishermen to fish in Philippine waters, local fishermen's associations are against it.

They fear that if allowed, foreign

fishermen may cause irreparable damage to the marine environment because of possible overfishing. Industry spokesmen add that if ever the Philippines should allow foreign fishermen into the country, it should first strengthen its sea patrol system. ...

THE CURRENT

stand of the Fishery Industry Development Council (FIDC) — a government agency which oversees fishing in the Philippines — is that fishing in Philippine waters should be limited to Filipinos.

(DAPThnews)

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP REPORTS POLLUTION THREAT

Taipei THE CHINA POST in English 27 Apr 81 p 12

[Text] Exhaust and smoke discharged by some 3.85 million motor vehicles and 58,000 factories here are seriously threatening the health of the public. They also pollute the air and environment, damage crops and corrode construction facilities, Wei Wei-hsin, director of the Provincial Environmental Sanitation Experimentation Center, said in a report yesterday.

Rapid increases of the population, factories, and motor vehicles are the major causes of air pollution problems in this province, stated Wei.

Coal, Heavy Oil Real Polluters

He said some local plants use raw coal as their power source. If their generation equipment and facilities are inadequate, heavy smoke will be created. Other plants burn heavy oil which produces even greater pollutants and severer air pollution problems.

Dust also adds to air pollution here, Wei said. "There are two sources of dust: construction, such as road repair work, trench digging, and building construction; and grinding factories, that make cement, or stone and chalk mills. All these plants discharge dust into the air."

By using powdered coal, thermal power plant succeed in completely burning the coal. Though there is no black smoke, white dust which has similar polluting effect is emitted into the air.

Poisonous Gases

Metal refineries such as iron and steel, copper, and aluminium plants produce poisonous gases during the smelting process. If these poisonous gases or dust are not collected, people's health will be seriously threatened by breathing these gases.

Pollution-Related Diseases

Wei warned that if conditions are not improved, people here will suffer from diseases like bronchitis, asthma, pulmonary emphysema and even pulmonary cancer.

Other damages of air pollution include decrease of agricultural production. Due to the blockage of the pores of leaves, plants are unable to grow. Instances can be found in a number of farms located in the vicinity of the factories. A glass-making company in Teyuan had to pay compensation to farmers growing crops near its factory, because the poisonous gases had ruined their crops.

"Also, polluted air usually contains excessive acidic compounds which will corrode construction facilities like cement, plastics and metal bars and fixtures," Wei added.

End A700/4916

FISH SELF-SUFFICIENCY, EXPORTING PREDICTED FOR 1982

Efforts in Kaduna

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN In English 9 Apr 81 p 13

[Article by Lake Salau]

[Text]

NIGERIA will be self sufficient in fresh fish production and export to other neighbouring countries by the middle of next year.

To this end, the Rivers State alone will be producing over four million metric tonnes of fresh fish as against one million metric tonnes being presently produced annually in the country.

Delivering a lecture on behalf of Governor Melford Okilo of Rivers State to the participants of First Agricultural Show currently holding in Kaduna, the state Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr. S.B. Nwikepo, told the New Nigerian yesterday that when all the fishery projects in the state went into full operation, about 400,000 metric tonnes of fish would be produced monthly.

Mr. Nwikepo said the state, being the home of fishing industry in the country, was poised to supply the whole nation.

In the lecture, Governor Okilo said that his administration had mapped out strategies to modernise fishing industry in the state.

As a start, the state government had established a fishing company charged with the responsibility of using modern equipment such as trawlers and other shrimpers to maximise catches.

Similarly, the state government has completed arrangements for the construction of modern fishing ports in some coastal towns such as Queen Town in Opobo area, Oyorokoto in Andoni area, Akassa in Brass, Odionna and Koloma, the governor said.

These ports, according to Governor Okilo, would have modern facilities like processing plants, storage depots, cold-rooms, drying kilns to make for proper handling of fishes.

He said there would also be training facilities and repair workshop in these ports to cater for the needs of the ordinary fisherman.

To give greater boost to fishing industry in the state, Governor Okilo said 15 new fishing trawlers have been placed on order adding the first batch of these trawlers would arrive before the end of the year while the second batch would be delivered before the middle of next year.

He also said that work had already started on the construction of modern fish farms in Ogu, Abua and Edebeburu while another farm together with fish hatchery was to be set up at Bori.

On the side of the Federal Government, it has set up fish

seeds multiplication centres at Tiga Dam in Kano State, Panyam Fish Farm in Plateau State.

Other centres are in Oyo town in Oyo State, Bakolori in Sokoto State and Umunna/Okigwe in Imo State.

The Assistant Director of Fishing Industry in the Federal Ministry of Industries, Alhaji Apampa said the multiplication centres were aimed at boosting fish production in the country.

Alhaji Apampa said about two million tonnes of fish seeds were produced at Oyo and Panyam centres alone last year.

He also said there were potentialities for Nigeria to be self sufficient in fish production and exportation but lack of manpower and adequate finance, according to him, were militating against these potentialities.

In his closing remark, the chairman of the occasion, Alhaji Adamu Ciroma, the Minister for Industries, promised that all suggestions raised by the participants would be looked into by appropriate authorities.

Cross River Fish Farm

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 9 Apr 81 p 11

[Article by Edet Orok, Calabar]

[Text]

THE Federal Government is to make available the sum of ₦500 Naira for the reactivation of the Fish Seed Multiplication Farm at Alaha, Offiong in Etinan Local Government area of the Cross River State.

The amount will be used partly to defray outstanding liabilities incurred on the project in form of wages and partly for the completion of the project which was halted due to lack of funds.

These facts were disclosed by the Federal Minister of Agriculture, Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau, when he visited the farm in continuation of his recent official tour of agricultural projects in the state.

Alhaji Ibrahim Gusau said that the Federal Government was fully committed to providing fish for the people of the country.

As the first practical step towards achieving this end, the Federal Government, he further disclosed, had placed order for a total of 45 fishing trawlers for distribution to all fish producing areas in the country, six of which, he added, had already arrived.

Earlier in an address of welcome the Fisheries Officer in

charge of the project, Miss Theresa Nyambi, had told the Federal Minister that the project involved the construction of five breeding pounds to supply fish fingerlings to government and private fish farms in the eastern states.

Among the places visited by the Federal Minister during the tour were the Rice Farm at Ekoi Mbat in Ikono, the Federal Livestock Investigation and Breeding Centre in Uyo and the gully erosion sites at Uyo and Itam.

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U.S. CONDUCT AT LOS CONFERENCE SCORED

Kiev PRAVDA UKRAINY in Russian 2 Apr 81 p 3

[RATAU correspondent A. Sidoruk article: "Octopuses Reach Out for the Submarine Treasures"]

[Text] Can Washington be trusted as a partner in international negotiations? The representatives of more than 150 states assembled in the UN headquarters to adopt an all-embracing convention determining the conditions of the use of the ocean and its resources now have an unequivocal answer to this question....

Literally a few days prior to the 10th session of the Third UN Law of the Sea Conference, U.S. Secretary of State A. Haig instructed the U.S. delegation to "block a final agreement." Washington had made this decision, it transpired, without any consultations even with its closest allies. And a new move was made less than 48 hours prior to the opening of the conference--the bulk of the U.S. delegation was replaced.

This maneuver enabled the new head of the American delegation to assure the conferees that the U.S. Administration is neither "for" nor "against" the treaty inasmuch as "it has not yet been able to study it." Yet a statement of the State Department asserted directly that "serious problems had been revealed" as a result of an analysis of the draft convention and that a new "position in respect of the negotiations themselves" would be determined. But perhaps the most candid spokesman on this score was W. Clark, deputy U.S. secretary of state, who declared the administration's wish for a "final break with the past."

Washington again demonstrated its lack of respect not only for the world community but also for its freely adopted commitments. After all, the draft treaty submitted for examination by the Third UN Law of the Sea Conference was the result of many years of negotiations in which the socialist, capitalist and developing states, including littoral countries and those lacking an outlet to the sea, participated. It provides for compromise solutions of complex problems--such as the conditions and depth of territorial waters, the conditions of international straits, freedom of navigation, the establishment of 200-mile economic zones and, finally, development of the resources of the seabed. The interests of all the countries concerned, including the United States, were taken into consideration here. Merely the fact that the draft document took into account 117 (of 130) amendments proposed by the American delegation testifies to this.

Diplomatic circles were convinced that the present, 10th, session of the UN Law of the Sea Conference would culminate in the adoption of an all-embracing convention which would have been opened for subsequent ratification by all states. But these expectations came to naught owing to the obstructionist attitude of American diplomacy.

Is the United States' actual renunciation of its previous positions as unexpected as might appear? Unfortunately, it has to be stated, G.I. Udovenko, deputy foreign minister of the Ukrainian SSR, declared, addressing the Law of the Sea Conference, that certain circles in the United States stubbornly aspire to the settlement of questions connected with the development of the minerals of the seabed in their favor.

While participating in the drafting of the convention of a law of the sea Washington was at the same time placing a delayed-action bomb beneath it. Last summer, during the J. Carter presidency, the U.S. Congress, by its decision on the development of the mineral resources of the seabed, authorized the U.S. Department of Commerce to issue, beginning 1982, licenses to American companies to explore the most promising areas of the seabed beyond U.S. national jurisdiction and, beginning 1988, to develop them, irrespective of whether an international law of the sea convention had come into effect or not.

U.S. presidents come and go, but continuity of the policy of plunder is maintained. Sometimes entire regions of the world, sometimes boundless expanses of the world's oceans and their resources are proclaimed a sphere of "the United States' vitally important interests." The Republican Party's election program claimed: "The negotiations under way at the Law of the Sea Conference are holding back the United States' development of the rich mineral resources of the seabed. Undue concern is being displayed for countries which lack the possibility of developing these resources and insufficient attention is being paid to ensuring Americans' access to them as soon as possible."

Monopolist octopuses--four transnational consortiums in which American capital rules the roost--are longing for the deposits of cobalt, nickel, copper and manganese in the kingdom of Neptune. These are the Kennecot group, half of whose capital is owned by the American company of the same name; another consortium--Ocean Mining Associates--in which two American companies--U.S. Steel and Sun Company Incorporated--participate; and two more--Ocean Management Incorporated and Ocean Minerals Company.

The octopuses are not interested in realization of the idea contained in the draft convention concerning the creation of a special international body which would regulate the development of the resources of the seabed, allocating half of the profits here for the development of the young independent states. "American mining companies," the NEW YORK TIMES writes, "hope that their technology will outpace diplomacy and enable them to be the first to take possession of the seabed. Thus the postponement is in itself a factor of American diplomacy."

For the benefit of the monopolies the U.S. delegation is attempting to put pressure on the representatives of the developing countries and wring from them consent to a revision of the draft convention which had essentially already been drawn up. A draft document on the so-called advance protection of capital investments was submitted for this purpose. The system proposed by the United States represents an archreactionary form of concession whereby the concession holder arbitrarily, in circumvention of an international body (which does not yet exist, incidentally), seizes any most promising area of the ocean floor, thereby securing an unchecked monopoly of its development for hundreds of years ahead.

It is perfectly natural that the Group of 77, which unites the developing countries, refused to negotiate on the proposal put forward by the United States, which serves exclusively the interests of the American monopolies. Not one state supported the position of Washington, which is endeavoring to establish the "law of the jungle" in the ocean depths.

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DENMARK

CHEMICAL WASTE DUMP MAY HAVE CONTAMINATED PART OF DANISH SEA

Taipei THE CHINA POST in English 26 Apr 81 p 3

[Text] Copenhagen, Denmark, April 24 (AP)--Denmark's Agency for Environmental Protection has discovered high mercury levels in fish along 75 kilometers of Danish coastline, possibly due to seepage from a chemical waste depot.

A report issued by the agency on Thursday reinforced fears that a long-buried chemical waste dump may have contaminated sea life over the last 20 years around the mouth of the Limfjord in northwest Jutland, Denmark's mainland peninsula.

The waste depot belongs to the Danish chemical company, Cheminova A.S., which with government consent buried the poisons under a deserted stretch of beach in 1961.

Thursday's report said tests show considerable pollution from various chemicals in an area from the mouth of the Limfjord far out into the North Sea.

The agency said life forms on the sea bottom were noticeably affected in an area three kilometers north and south of the chemical dump. Flounder were found to contain increased mercury levels as far as 25 kilometers north and 50 kilometers south of there.

The chemical dump contained 500 tons of sulphur, 70 tons of organic poisons, 2 tons of mercury and about 400 kilograms of arsenic, the agency said.

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